



Canadian Study
of Parliament Group

2010 Annual Report

Ottawa, March 25, 2011



Canadian Study of Parliament Group

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

This report provides an overview of the programs and activities of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) for the period between January 2010 and February 2011.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS


There are many highlights in what proved to be yet another successful year for the CSPG. The highlights include:

- ❖ a busy schedule of three winter/spring and four fall events, including three parliamentary business seminars and a full day conference
- ❖ further improvements in the Parliamentary Business Seminar format to maximize learning opportunities
- ❖ the broadcasting of many of our events on CPAC and their availability on the CPAC website
- ❖ the publication of three further papers in our series of provincial/territorial legislatures series, on the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Group continues to focus on its long-term fiscal health. The Group remains in good financial shape but continues to take steps to streamline costs and ensure its long term stability.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The CSPG is thankful for the strong support it receives from its members and partners, and especially the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada.



The Table Research Branch continues to play an especially critical role in supporting the work of the Group. Marie-Danielle Vachon and José Cadorette have also been instrumental in offering advice and furthering CSPG projects in their roles as Deputy Principal Clerk and acting Deputy Principal Clerk, respectively, for the Table Research Branch.

The CSPG also enjoys a strong relationship with the *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and its editor, Gary Levy. Copies of the *Review* are sent to all paid CSPG members, and the *Review* regularly features CSPG papers and proceedings.

Finances

The CSPG ended the year with its finances in good order, with the budgeted deficit less than anticipated. Both expenses and revenues were lower than expected. Efforts continued over 2010 to reduce operational expenses and further economies will be made over the coming year.

In accordance with good governance practices, the CSPG initiated an audit last year and is continuing with an annual audit this year and going forward. Recommendations made by the auditors to enhance oversight by the Board have also been implemented. The investment policy statement adopted by the Board last year is ensuring continuity in the CSPG's GIC investments and we are realizing modest returns.

Looking to the future financial picture for the CSPG, there is concern about the accumulative effect of the impact of several years of deficit spending. The Board has discussed this situation and will work on options for ensuring that the Group's finances do not fall below a level required in order for it to carry out its work.

Membership and Outreach

The Group's membership is presently at 370, as of February 2011.

The Group has shifted to largely using electronic notification to all members unless otherwise requested. At the same time, we have found regular mail to be more reliable than e-mail, as e-mail addresses often change over time, and we continue to work to keep our databases as updated as possible. Group

members are urged to forward any new contact details so that we can continue to keep you informed.

The Group website (studyparliament.ca) is a key resource for promotion, event registration and an archive of all recent publications. The publications section has recently been reformatted into thematic groups so information required is easier to find.

The CSPG continues to recruit new members through provision of complimentary one-year memberships to parliamentary and legislative interns and participants in the annual Teachers' Institute.

CSPG Executive Secretary Erica Pereira also oversaw the creation of two CSPG banners to display behind events. These banners give CSPG a smart and professional look, especially on television, and further enhance the Group image and standing.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Provincial/Territorial Papers


Since 2007 the CSPG has overseen a major project of commissioning and publishing original papers on all thirteen provincial and territorial legislatures in Canada. The project is designed to fill an important gap in the literature in that little up-to-date, authoritative material is available on many of Canada's parliamentary institutions for students, journalists or the public.

The first paper on the Nova Scotia House of Assembly was completed in 2008. In 2010 the Group was pleased to publish three further papers on Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island and the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador. These papers are available on the CSPG website and members may also request print copies.

Further papers are in progress for New Brunswick, Quebec and Alberta, and the Group expects to commission a further round of papers in 2011.

Academic Conferences

The CSPG sponsored a roundtable discussion at the Canadian Political Science Association 2010 meetings in Montreal on a new book by Professor Ian Stewart of Acadia University titled *Just One Vote: From Jim Walding's Nomination to Constitutional Defeat* (University of Manitoba Press). *Just One Vote* is an intricate study of the life and times of Mr. Walding, former



Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, and how his actions had a profound impact on Canadian politics and especially the Meech Lake Accord debate in the late 1980s. The CSPG was pleased to draw attention to this important new book in provincial politics.

National Student Essay Competition

The essay competition, for undergraduate and graduate students across Canada, entered its eighth annual competition in 2010. Students were once again invited to submit an essay addressing Parliament, legislatures or legislators in either English or French, and the deadline was moved from January to February 1 to ensure more entries. We were pleased to receive 26 entries. The selection committee was headed by Dr. Tamara A. Small (Mount Allison University) and comprised Ms. Marie-Danielle Vachon, Dr. David Docherty (Wilfrid Laurier University), Dr. Jonathan Rose (Queen's University) and Dr. Jonathan Malloy (Carleton University).

The winner was Marilyne Gauvreau. Ms Gauvreau will receive a prize of \$1000, and be honoured at the luncheon coinciding with the Group's Annual General Meeting. The essay will also appear on the CSPG Web site.

James R. Mallory Research Grant

The James R. Mallory Research Grant was established in 2006 to honour one of the Group's most distinguished members. The James R. Mallory Research Grant is offered bi-annually and currently is worth \$8,000.00.

The third winner of the grant (2008-2010) is Kelly Blidook, Memorial University. Dr. Blidook has recently submitted his final report "Symbol vs. Substance: Theatre, Political Career Paths, and Parliamentary Behaviour in Canada". It will be published and distributed shortly.

The Mallory Grant has received submissions from 12 applicants, with the winner to be announced later in the spring.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

The CSPG organized no less than seven events in 2010 and co-sponsored an additional event. Events continue to be consistently well-attended, and always superbly organized thanks to the CSPG staff and other members of the parliamentary precinct staff. We particularly thank all of our speakers and panelists who give of their time and effort without charge.

Parliamentary Business Seminars

Three Parliamentary Business Seminars were held in 2010...

January 2010: Follow the Money: Understanding the federal budgetary cycle

First Panel:

Marlene Catterall, Former Liberal Party Member for Ottawa--West Nepean

Brian Pagan, Executive Director, Expenditure Operations and Estimates Division Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Alex Smith, Analyst, Government Finance

Second Panel:

David Dewar Director, Expenditure Analysis, Expenditure Management Sector Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

Massimo Pacetti, Liberal Party Member of Parliament for Saint-Léonard— Saint Michel

Neil Saravanamutto, Coordinator Finance Canada Expenditure and Revenue Analysis and Forecasting

May 2010: Parliamentary Diplomacy

First Panel:

Eric Janse; Clerk Assistant and Director General, IIA

Catherine Piccinin; Deputy Principal Clerk, Parliamentary Exchanges

Natalie Mychajlyszyn, Ph.D.; Analyst, Library of Parliament

Second Panel:

The Honourable Dennis Dawson; Senator - Lauzon

The Honourable Mauril Bélanger; M.P. for Ottawa-Vanier

October 2010: Committees and Parliament 2010/2011

First Panel:

Heather Lank, Principal Clerk, Committees, the Senate of Canada

André Gagnon, Clerk Assistant, Committees and Legislative Services, House of Commons
Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Ph.D., Analyst, Library of Parliament

Second Panel:

The Honourable Don Boudria, Senior Counsellor, Hill & Knowlton
Tim Powers, Vice President, Summa Communications
Don Newman, CBC News

Over the summer of 2010, Jack Stilborn led an initiative to build on the existing success of the PBS model. New improvements include a decision to balance the PBS format with a clear two-panel format that focused on learning about the parliamentary process and highlighting current and upcoming issues in Parliament. As well, special breakout sessions were added for the first time between panels to encourage registrants, with the help of panel participants, to further discuss points raised in the seminars. This has been very successful with a great deal of positive feedback.

As president, I particularly want to thank Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Jack Stilborn and Jean Cintrat for their efforts on the parliamentary business seminars.

Panels and Conferences

The March 2010 seminar, held alongside the annual general meeting, focused on the Governor-General with remarks from two esteemed figures, Professor Peter Hogg and Professor C.E.S. Franks. This event attracted a large crowd, with Professor Franks' remarks later reprinted in the *Globe and Mail*. Many remarked on the "rock star" nature of the event!

In September 2010 the Group organized a panel event focusing on the Hon. Michael Chong's proposals for Question Period Reform and chaired by prominent journalist Tom Clark. After opening remarks by the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Peter Milliken, a panel of parliamentarians with Mr. Chong, Glen Pearson, Christiane Gagnon, and Denise Savoie discussed the status of Question Period. A second panel of Mr. Don Martin (*National Post*), Professor C.E.S. Franks and the Hon. Sheila Copps then discussed their perspectives on Question Period.

In November 2010, the CSPG co-organized a full-day conference on "Paths to Parliament" with Carleton University's Bell Chair for the Study of Canadian Parliamentary Democracy and McGill University's Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship. The event included a luncheon address by the Hon. Sheila Copps and remarks by the Hon. Hedy Fry as well as participation from representatives of other political parties. The conference included a special focus on women and visible minorities with a number of

papers by academic experts. We also wish to thank Ms. Alison Loat of Samara Canada for presenting findings from their “Accidental Citizen” report based on extensive “exit interviews” with recent MPs.

And finally, in December 2010 the Group was pleased to organize a special discussion on the recent book “Parliament and Congress: Representation and Scrutiny in the 21st Century” featuring Ms. Audrey O’Brien, Clerk of the House of Commons, as well as Sir William McKay and Charles Johnson, authors of the book. This seminar was a free event, and organized with the help of the Library of Parliament and the House of Commons.

Co-Sponsorship

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group was also pleased to act as a co-sponsor along with the Senate of Canada and other organizations and individuals for the “Crown in Canada” conference held June 9 and 10th in Ottawa. This conference featured a rich and nuanced discussion of the Crown and its continuing significance in Canadian politics and constitutional affairs.

CPAC Broadcasting

On a final note, the CSPG is pleased that many of our events have been recorded and broadcast on CPAC at no additional cost, with many available through the CPAC website as “Video-on-Demand.” This has allowed members from outside the National Capital Region to access CSPG events at their convenience as well as tremendously expanding the CSPG’s presence across Canada, fulfilling the CSPG’s mission of promoting dialogue and further understanding of Canadian legislative institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Speaking Tours

The Speaking Tour program, which was established in 1988, is a joint initiative of the CSPG and the Association of Clerks-at-the-Table in Canada. The CSPG fulfils the role of arranging for senior Procedural Clerks to speak to classes at Canadian universities about aspects of the Canadian parliamentary system.

Letters to universities were sent in the spring, with a follow up reminder in the fall. Requests were received from 6 universities and included multiple presentation requests. In total 5 presentations were provided, which were all fulfilled by Table Officers from the Senate and the House of Commons.

Teacher's Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy

The Teachers' Institute (TI) is a professional development program that brings 70 teachers from across Canada to Parliament Hill for a one week "behind the scenes" seminar designed to provide teachers with a sound understanding of Canada's parliamentary system. The TI celebrated its 13th anniversary this year, and the Group has again provided a complimentary one-year membership to all educators attending the Teacher's Institute, which is recognized in the TI's brochures, Web site and participant's manuals. The CSPG also has a table at the annual Resource Fair where we have been able to communicate with dozens of teachers every year and learn about their needs as well as further promoting the CSPG.

SPECIAL THANKS

The CSPG could not operate without the work of a number of important people.

We particularly wish to recognize the contributions of the CSPG Executive Secretaries and Administrative Officers. Samy Agha served as the CSPG Executive Secretary until May 2010, when he was ably replaced by Erica Pereira. Julie Levesque and Anne Jarbough served as Administrative Officers from January-February 2010 and February-August 2010 respectively. We are pleased to recently welcome back Sophie (Descary) LeBlanc who has been a tremendous support to CSPG over the years. We also wish to thank Dany Lamarque for acting as acting Administrative Officer for the fall of 2010.

On behalf of the Group, thanks are expressed to departing Board members – Ms. Tamara Small and Ms. Christine Trauttmansdorff - for the unflagging energy and creativity which they have brought to the organization for many years. Their contributions will be missed.

Special thanks are also expressed to the Board and Executive of CSPG who work tirelessly to fulfill the objectives of the Group while raising the profile of and interest in public institutions such as Parliament and the provincial/territorial legislatures. We must note the dedication of these volunteers who have many other responsibilities but have given their time and energy to work on behalf of the Group and its members: Blair Armitage, Dianne Brydon, Jean Cintrat, David Docherty, Janice Hilchie, Heather MacIvor, Jean-Rodrigue Paré, Jonathan Rose, Tamara Small, Christine Trauttmansdorff, Jack Stilborn and Graham White. I want to particularly thank Past President Patricia Chaychuk for her continuing assistance and counsel. It has been a privilege to serve as CSPG President and to work with such great and dedicated people.

2010 has been another successful year of advancing the mission of the Canadian Study of Parliament Group to foster discussion and enhance knowledge of parliamentary government.

We look forward to further exciting opportunities in 2011.

Jonathan Malloy

President



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-2012

The Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG) Nominating Committee, composed of Jonathan Malloy, Jean-Rodrigue Paré and Dianne Brydon, has the honour to present its report. The committee proposes the following nominations for 2011-2012:

PRESIDENT: JONATHAN MALLOY
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Carleton University

VICE-PRESIDENT: JEAN-RODRIGUE PARÉ
Analyst
Library of Parliament

TREASURER: JANICE HILCHIE
Vice-President
Legislative Relations
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association

SECRETARY: JEAN CINTRAT
Director
Parliamentary Affairs Division
Public Safety Canada

PAST-PRESIDENT: PATRICIA CHAYCHUCK
Clerk
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

CONTINUING DIRECTORS :
(second year of two year terms)

DIANNE BRYDON

Director General
Learning and Access Services
Library of Parliament

HEATHER MACIVOR

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Windsor

JACK STILBORN

Retired (Library of Parliament)

GRAHAM WHITE

Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

HOWARD YEUNG

Consultant
Deloitte

DEPARTING DIRECTORS :

DAVID DOCHERTY

Dean of Arts
Wilfrid Laurier University

TAMARA SMALL

Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Mount Allison University

CHRISTINE TRAUTTMANSDORFF

Director
Policy, Planning, and International
Affairs
Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED :
(term expires this year)

BLAIR ARMITAGE

Principal Clerk
Communications Directorate
Senate of Canada

JONATHAN ROSE

Associate Professor
Department of Political Studies
Queen's University

NEW DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED :
(for two year terms)

PATTI TAMARA LENARD

Assistant Professor
Graduate School of Public and
International Affairs
University of Ottawa

STEPHEN KNOWLES

Retired (House of Commons)

LORI TURNBULL

Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University